



H.R. 2894 – Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 2894 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD) on June 28, 2007. The bill was reported out of the Committee on Financial Services but was never considered.

H.R. 2894 is expected to be considered on May 13, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 2894 requires the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of both the bicentennial of the writing of the “Star Spangled Banner” and the War of 1812.

Each coin minted will have “Liberty”, “In God We Trust”, “United States of America”, and “E Pluribus Unum” on the face of the coin.

The Secretary will choose a design after consulting with the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts. The design will then be reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee, which was mandated by Congress in 2003 for the purpose of advising on the themes and design of coins.

The coins will be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities. It is the Secretary's choosing as to value of the coins but each coin will have a \$10 surcharge added in order to contribute to the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission for the purpose of supporting bicentennial activities.

BACKGROUND

The ‘Star Spangled Banner’ was written by Francis Scott Key in 1812 while he was being held overnight by the British during the attack on Fort McHenry, which was a fort defending Baltimore. The morning after the shelling of the American fort by the British, Mr. Key saw an American flag still flying over the fort. Mr. Key was so moved by the sight of the flag after the attack that he penned a poem that he noted was intended to be sung in the same note and rhythm as the British melody, “To Anacreon in Heaven.” In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson ordered that it be played at military and naval occasions, and in 1932, the ‘Star Spangled Banner’ became the national anthem of the U.S.

COST

At the time of publication the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) had not yet scored this legislation.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Luke Hatzis at (202) 226-2302.